

AM9A

RELEASED IN FULL

PCO SPOKESMAN: MONDAY 24 APRIL 1995

RWANDA

In response to a question Spokesman said that we were still trying to establish the facts. There seemed to be no doubt that armed elements including the former Interahamwe have been operating within the camps. Equally it appeared that elements of the RPA had over-reacted with severe loss of life including unarmed women and children.

Deeply concerned at reports of loss of life in the internally displaced camp in Kibeho. This was a set-back for the internationally backed effort for national reconciliation.

In concert with EU and UN Security Council partners, we were taking this up with the government of Rwanda. There should be an urgent inquiry into the events and firm action against those responsible.

Recognised the Rwandan government's concerns about threat posed to national security by armed groups within the camps. We must ensure there was no repetition of such violence against civilians.

Essential that those displaced from Kibeho and other camps were now brought in safety to their own communities or rehoused pending resettlement. We were working with UN agencies and NGOs to ensure immediate humanitarian requirements (food, water, health, shelter) of IDPs are catered for. Looked to Government of Rwanda to co-operate fully in this effort and to ensure access for the agencies to all areas of need.

ENDS